



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## **Official Christmas tree arrives in Lansing Saturday**

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Management and Budget and the Michigan Association of Timbermen are bringing the state's official Christmas tree to Lansing from Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The 65-foot spruce tree will be set in place on the Capitol lawn on Saturday, November 8, at 9 a.m.

"The search for our state's holiday tree has become a wonderful Michigan tradition," said Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm. "We hope you will bring your friends and family to our ceremonial tree lighting when we officially welcome the holiday season to Michigan."

This year's tree was harvested from George Miljour Sr.'s yard in Negaunee, a historic iron-mining town just west of Marquette. The 90-year-old Miljour has lived there since 1940.

Every year there is a Michigan-wide search for a special tree. Nominations from the public are encouraged and must be submitted before July 1. The spruce or fir tree must be made available at no charge, and it must be at least 65 feet tall.

The timbermen harvest the tree and then transport it to Lansing. For more than 20 years, Hi-Ball Crane of Laingsburg has volunteered its crew and equipment to set the trees in place at the Capitol. The Boy Scout Troop 3 of Charlotte will be on hand to cut the ropes binding the branches for transport.

"Thousands of people of all ages, and from all over Michigan, look forward to this event every year," said DMB Director Lisa Webb Sharpe. "We are so grateful our residents continue to be so generous in contributing their trees to such a fun and festive time!"

The official lighting of the tree will take place Friday, November 21, during Lansing's 24<sup>th</sup> annual "Silver Bells in the City" celebration.

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